

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 081621Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7956

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, AU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ARAB-ISRAELI DIALOGUE IN VIENNA

1. AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (SPO) LEADERS HAVE DENIED TO EMBOFF REPORT THAT FORMER ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN IS LIKELY TO MEET WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA DURING SPO CONGRESS MARCH 11-13. VIENNA PAPER "KRONEN-ZEITUNG" HAD SO REPORTED MARCH 7, SUGGESTING PARTNER WOULD BE HEAD OF PLO OFFICE IN BUDAPEST WHO HAD VISITED VIENNA PREVIOUSLY.

2. SPO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MARSCH SAID ALL ARAB COUNTRIES WERE INVITED THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES AT VIENNA TO SEND OBSERVERS TO SPO CONGRESS, AND EGYPTIAN ARAB SOCIALIST UNION AS WELL AS SYRIAN BAATH PARTY

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WOULD BE AMONG ARAB SOCIALIST PARTIES OR GOVERNMENTS

REPRESENTED. HE CONFIRMED THAT EBAN WOULD PARTICIPATE IN CONGRESS ALONG WITH OTHER ISRAELI LABOR PARTY MEMBERS AS FRATERNAL DELEGATES. MARSCH SAID CHANCELLOR KREISKY WOULD OPEN SPECIAL EVENING MEETING OF CONGRESS MARCH 12 AT WHICH OBSERVERS AS WELL AS DELEGATES WILL BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK, AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS INVOLVING ARABS AND ISRAELIS COULD THEREFORE DEVELOP. MARSCH THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT POSSIBILITY OF EBAN MEETING WITH PLO WAS IDLE SPECULATION AND DENIED "KRONEN-ZEITUNG'S" CLAIM THAT STORY WAS OBTAINED FROM INFORMED QUARTERS IN SPO.

3. COMMENT: WHILE CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS MADE NO SECRET OF HIS WISH TO FACILITATE ARAB-ISRAELI DIALOGUE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ACTIVITIES OF AUSTRIAN AND EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES, EMBOFF GOT DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SPO LEADERS ARE DISTRESSED THAT REACTION TO "KRONEN-ZEITNUNG" STORY MIGHT NOW INTERFERE WITH EFFORT TO GET DIALOGUE STARTED.BUCHANAN

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